

thePost

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March 2, 2007

NEWSNOTES

Army Emergency Relief campaign to kick off

The kick off for the Army Emergency Relief Campaign will be held March 7 at 2 p.m. in the MWR Conference Room, Bldg 6043. The event is open to every one, and campaign material will be distributed that day.

Once again, the American Ex-Prisoners of War will be on hand to make the first donation.

Red Cross blood drive coming to Main Chapel

The American Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by Fort Dix Local #1999, will be held March 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Main Chapel, New Jersey Avenue & 8th Street. Call your coordinator for more information.

McGuire's Broidy Gate to stay open 24/7

The gate adjacent to the BX/Commissary known as the "Broidy Gate," which separates McGuire and Fort Dix will officially be open 24 hours a day beginning Monday to all traffic transiting between the installations.

The Security Forces Entry Controller will no longer be posted there to check decals or passes, verifying whether or not the vehicle or person is DoD affiliated. Security Forces personnel will only be posted on the Broidy Gate during Random Antiterrorism Measures, increased or heightened Force Protection Condition Measures or special events.

Family Support Center to host home buying class

McGuire Family Support Center will be hosting a Home Buying Seminar March 26. There will be two sessions, one from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and another from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The class is open to all DoD identification card holders.

Registration is required and this class fills up quickly, so register soon. This class is ideal for the first time home buyer; it will discuss the benefits and costs of home buying, mortgage options and what lenders look for in a home owner.

The McGuire FSC is located at 3011 Tuskegee Airmen Avenue on McGuire Air Force Base.

Please call 754-3154 or send e-mail to fsc@mcguire.af.mil to register. Don't forget to include which session you would like to attend.

Post-deployment stress subject of new seminar

The Combat Operational Post-Deployment Stress Group will host a seminar March 6 at 6 p.m. in the Funplex located at 3320 Route 38 in Ft. Laurel for service members returning from deployment who have experienced any of the following:

- frustration
- sleep disturbance
- intolerance of "stupid behavior"
- vivid recall
- excitability
- poor concentration
- anxiety

Dress is civilian clothing, and only first names will be used. If you'd like, bring a Battle Buddy. Call an OWT medic at 754-9425 for more information.

WEATHER

FRIDAY: Periods of rain, mainly before noon, with a partly cloudy evening. High of 51 degrees, low of 33.

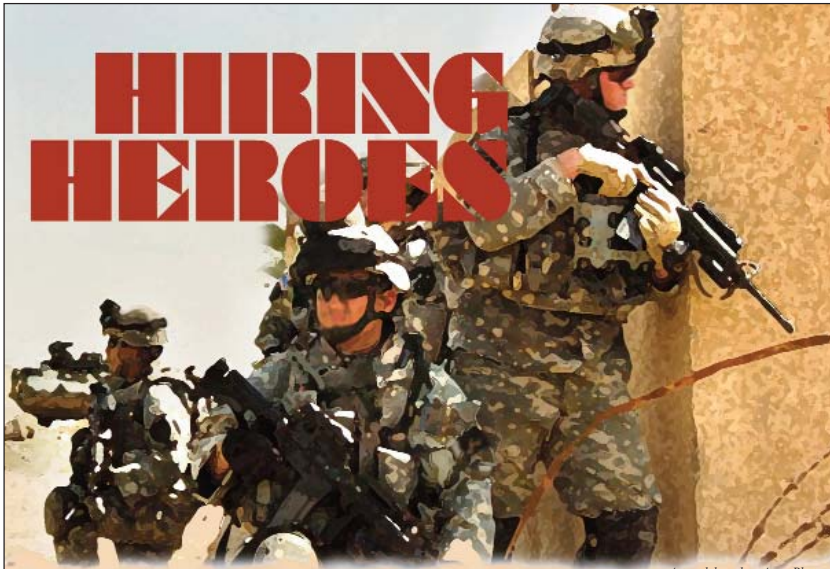
SATURDAY: Slight chance of showers with partly cloudy skies. High of 51 degrees, low of 32.

SUNDAY: Partly cloudy with clearing by nightfall. High of 45 degrees, low of 23.

MONDAY: Mostly sunny with a high of 43, low of 24.

TUESDAY: Mostly sunny with clear skies at night. High of 42 degrees with a low of 28.

HIRING HEROES



Artwork based on Army Photo

Career fair offers bright future for wounded warriors

Shawn Morris
Public Affairs Staff

When citizens volunteer to be Soldiers, they swear a solemn oath to place themselves in harm's way for the welfare of their country. Such is the reality of life in the military, a reality recognized and shared by all who wear the uniform.

But a nation must also live up to its obligations, never forgetting those warriors who return from conflict bearing the scars of battle.

To this end, Fort Dix and the Installation Management Agency hosted the Hiring Heroes Technical Workshop and Career Fair Feb. 27-28 at the recently renovated Timmermann Conference Center.

"There's nothing more important than taking care of those who have taken care of us," Col. David McNeill, installation commander, told Soldiers in attendance at the opening session.

The two-day, Department of Defense-run event offered service members who were wounded in the Global War on Terrorism the chance to revamp their resumes, brush up on their job interview skills, learn to dress for success, and meet with more than 40 potential employers, veterans organizations and government agencies.

Wounded warriors from Charlie Company, the Fort Dix medical-holdover unit, as well as Soldiers from the Massachusetts and Virginia branches of the Army's Community Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO) program, were the honored guests. Charlie Company was also responsible for a majority of planning for the event at Fort Dix.

"This career fair is a huge event," said Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, assistant chief of staff for installation management and commanding general, Installation Management Command. "I urge each of you to take advantage of the resources we have here today."

Wilson kicked off the event's second day with an address to the nearly 300 service members in attendance, but work had begun the day before to prepare these Soldiers and Airmen for their meetings with potential employers.

Those who attended Tuesday's technical workshop learned about social security and veterans' benefits, the Military One Source program, and how to dress for success. They were also offered the chance to create or fine-tune resumes with the aid of nearly 20 volunteers who lent their time and expertise in an effort to give these troops the best chance of making a good impression during Wednesday's career fair.

"I turned in my resume to a couple of

(continued on page 4)



photos by Ed Mingin

FOR THE TROOPS
Robert Smith of National Public Radio, above right, interviews Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, assistant chief of staff for installation management and commanding general, Installation Management Command, during the Hiring Heroes Career Fair Feb. 28. Cpl. Matthew Welch and wife Diana, right, finalize his resume during the workshop portion of the event Feb. 27 on Fort Dix.



Terror, Iran, North Korea top list of threats

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 2007 — Terror remains the No. 1 threat to the United States and its interests, the new U.S. director of national intelligence said in congressional testimony yesterday.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Retired Navy Vice Adm. John M. "Mike" McConnell gave a tour of the world from a threat level.

Al Qaeda remains the terrorist network that poses the greatest threat to the United States, he said. "While many of al Qaeda's senior leadership have been killed or captured, its core elements are resilient," he said. "They continue to plot attacks against the homeland and other targets with the aim of inflicting mass casualties."

Al Qaeda and other terror groups continue to seek chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons or materials, he said. "Al Qaeda also is forging stronger operational connections that radiate outward from their camps in

Pakistan to affiliated groups and networks throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Europe," the admiral said.

Hezbollah, the Shiite organization backed by Iran and Syria, remains a source of serious concern to the United States also, McConnell said. "Last summer, hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah have increased Hezbollah's self-confidence," he said.

While outside actors are not likely to be a major driver of either violence or stability, Iranian lethal support for select groups of Iraqi Shiite militants clearly intensifies the conflict in Iraq.

Cooperation among nations remains the best defense against these terror organizations, McConnell said. "Our ability to prevent attacks abroad and at home has been aided considerably by cooperation from many foreign governments, among them Iraq, the United Kingdom, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan," he said.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States faces challenges exacerbated by terrorism.

In summarizing a national intelligence estimate on the situation in Iraq, McConnell said the current security and political trends in Iraq "are moving in a negative direction." The Samarra mosque bombing in February 2006 caused sectarian violence that has become self-sustaining. "Unless efforts to reverse these conditions gain real traction during the 12- to 18-month timeframe of this estimate, we assess that the security situation will continue to deteriorate at a rate comparable to the latter half of 2006," he said.

Success by the stronger and more loyal Iraqi security forces supported by the coalition in reducing violence "could give Iraqi political leaders breathing space to pursue political compromise needed for progress and stability," McConnell said.

However, he added, even if violence declines, the current level of sectarian

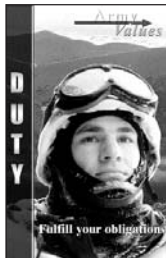
animosity will make political reconciliation difficult over the next 12 to 18 months.

If the coalition withdraws rapidly, intelligence officials foresee a significant increase in the scale and scope of sectarian conflict, he said. A withdrawal would also intensify Sunni resistance to the Iraqi government and have adverse consequences for national reconciliation. In addition, al Qaeda almost certainly would use Anbar province to plan for increased attacks.

While outside actors are not likely to be a major driver of either violence or stability, Iranian lethal support for select groups of Iraqi Shiite militants clearly intensifies the conflict in Iraq. Syria also continues to provide safe haven for expatriate Iraqi Baathists, McConnell said.

In Afghanistan, 2007 is a pivotal year, the admiral said. "They must build central and provincial government capacity, confront perverse drug cultivation and trafficking, and, with NATO and the United States, arrest the resurgence of the Taliban," he said.

(continued on page 3)



Staff Sgt. Michael R. Back, 1967-2007

Staff Sgt. Michael Richard Back, of Fort Dix's Co. A, died of a heart attack on Wednesday, Feb. 21, shortly after being sent to the hospital.

He was 40 years old. In the company's day room at approximately 6 a.m., Back complained of chest pains to Staff Sgt. Aaron Jackson, operations NCO for Co. A, whereupon Jackson, a trained Army medic, began treating him with Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) techniques. "He didn't look good to me," Jackson said.

Back is survived by his wife Melissa and their five children: Lindsey, Anthony, Rebecca, Cathryn and Jonathon. His mother Susan Irvin and her husband David; his father Richard Back and his wife, Sandra; and his sister Cathy Davies and her husband Paul were slated to receive friends Wednesday evening at the Vincent Funeral Home in Providence Forge, Va. The funeral home is near Back's hometown of Lanexa, Va. A contingent of Soldiers from Co. A planned on attending the viewing Wednesday night.

Staff Sgt. Back was both popular and highly respected within the environs of Co. A. Staff Sgt. Jackson first met about two years ago before he joined Co. A. Back was serving as a unit representative for some outfit in Virginia at the time.

"Mike was a very good NCO," Jackson recalls. "He was very thorough and treated troops very well," adds Jackson. Back's comrade-in-arms gives him high marks for "liking his job" and "never wavering when making a decision."

According to Jackson, Back also had a great sense of humor which made time fly at the office.

"He'd kidnap my kiwi bird and hide two dolls in the microwave," Jackson remembers. "And then I'd have to go to a website to read how to ransom the things."

There were no indications of any heart disease prior to his friend's attack, Jackson says.

"Mike had sinus problems and migraines but was managing his weight pretty good and was only a light smoker," Jackson reports.

"Mike was a good Soldier who cared about his job and liked what he did. He was an NCO that other NCOs should take as a model," Jackson concludes.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Ruiz, Co. A's training NCOIC, was probably Back's best friend in the unit. He met Back when the latter arrived at A Co. in November 2005.

"He was an outstanding professional," Ruiz recalls, who "knew his stuff." More important, perhaps, "there was nothing he wouldn't do for you."

"He made his points with humor," Ruiz says, and was "honest with everyone."

Ruiz appreciated his friend for always lending a helping hand. "When your day was done he'd help you clean up. Anything you needed that was work-related you could go to him. He'd stop doing what he was doing to help you."

"The word 'no' never came out of his mouth," Ruiz insists.

Co. A's supply sergeant, Staff Sgt. Alejandro Tomlinson, describes Back's death as an "intense shock."

"He was a total Soldier," who was "willing to lead" and "detail-oriented."

"He helped me with my car, he was a fine mechanic," relates the supply sergeant. "He'd help me with anything I couldn't do." Tomlinson says, wistfully.

Co. A 1st Sgt. Lisa Youngsang gives Back "a 10.5 out of 10 on the Soldier scale" describing him as "outstanding" and "very caring" along with being "very eager to help."

Youngsang admits. She further describes him as a fighter man who "loved the Army."

"He always put (other) Soldiers' needs above his own," she confides, adding that Back "lived Army values."

"He was jovial," Youngsang says, the type of Soldier who "always made everything fun."

"He would always tell me: 'Now, Top, don't worry about it. I got it.'"

Back was well-liked by civilian contractors who come within Co. A's work orbit, too. Angela

Quackenbush, Jennifer Scannell, Christa King, Jeanette Pelletier, Calvin Washington, Maurice Brown, Cynthia Johnson and Stacy Hightower signed a condolence letter to the company and Back's family that read:

"Staff Sgt. Michael Back is a person that we will always miss and never forget, from his funny practical jokes to his endless ability to Google anything. He was a very well-respected man, Soldier, and, most of all, friend."

"There was not a day that went by where he wasn't a ray of sunshine for everyone here. Staff Sgt. Back was a part of our daily lives and our lives are forever changed by this loss of his leadership and friendship."

"Staff Sgt. Back will live in our hearts and minds forever. He will be missed, considerably."

"Rest peacefully." A memorial service for Back will be held Wednesday, March 7 at 4 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. On that day, Fort Dix salutes a Soldier's Soldier.

- Steve Snyder

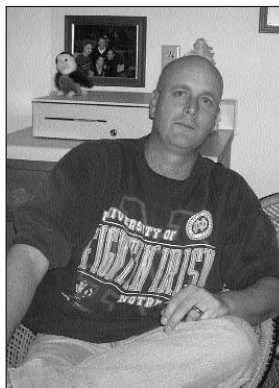


photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ruiz

HOMEBOY -- Back relaxes at home, resting between festivities at his son's recent birthday.



K-MAR Industries, Inc.

SSG Michael R. Back

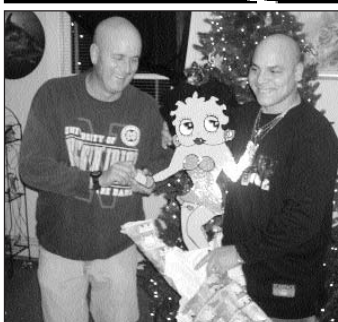


photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Anthony Ruiz

BOOP BOOP BE DOOP -- Staff Sgts. Michael Back and Anthony Ruiz celebrate the 2005 Christmas at Ruiz's house opening a gift bearing the facsimile of Betty Boop, both men's ideal.

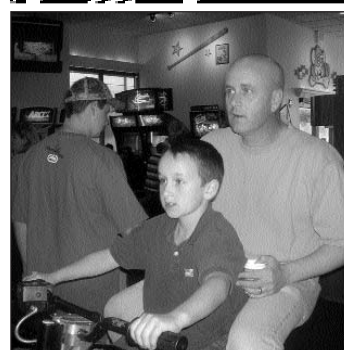


photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ruiz

FAMILY MAN -- The Back family gets down at Chuck n Cheese, celebrating another birthday in the brood.

the Post

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www.christianbaumann.com

SOLDIER AT SEA -- According to his military transcripts, Mike Back spent the first eight years of his Army career in a subset of the Army Transportation Corps, working in the Army watercraft field, technically called the Army Waterborne from 1991 to 1999 out of Fort Eustis and Fort Story in Virginia. He sailed to Panama aboard an Army LCU (Landing Craft Utility, like the one pictured above) while stationed with the 329th Transportation Co. (heavy boats) out of Eustis in 1996 and switched over to working with the army's largest maritime company, the 73rd Transportation Co., home of the Army's many tug boats, in 1999. Before landing a transportation position on dry land at Fort Lee, Va., in 2000, Back served in positions as varied as water craft engineer, marine engineer, and PLT maintenance supervisor.



Wayne Cook

Crash course in safety

Emergency Services responded to the scene of an automobile accident at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue at First Street Feb. 28. One of the vehicles left the roadway taking out the stop sign and striking the corner of building 5280.

24-hour Hotlines

Sexual Assault.....562-3849
Victim Advocacy.....694-8724
Child/Spouse Abuse.....562-6001
Emergencies.....911

Or, visit the Fort Dix Department of Defense
Police Department in Bldg. 6049
on 8th Street.

Family Advocacy
562-5200

Chaplain
562-2020

American Red Cross
562-2258

**Army Emergency
Relief**
562-2767

NCO Call

Club Dix
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Top list of threats —

(continued from page 1)

Progress in Afghanistan will not be easy. "There is a chronic shortage of resources and of qualified, motivated government officials," he said. "Once more, although the insurgency probably does not now directly threaten the government, it is deterring economic development and undermining popular support for President (Hamid) Karzai. The drug trade contributes to endemic corruption and undercuts public confidence. In addition, a dangerous nexus exists between drugs, the insurgents, and warlords who derive funds from cultivation and trafficking."

McConnell said that Iran and North Korea are of particular concern to the United States. These regimes have pursued nuclear programs in defiance of U.N. Security Council restrictions.

"We assess that Tehran seeks to develop nuclear weapons and has shown greater interest in drawing out the negotiations rather than reaching an acceptable diplomatic solution," he said.

In addition, a nuclear Iran could cause a nuclear arms race in the region, McConnell said. "While our information is incomplete, we estimate Iran could produce a nuclear weapon by early to mid next decade," he said.

With North Korea, six-party talks have produced an agreement intended to lead to a declaration of all North Korean nuclear programs and to the country's disabling all existing nuclear facilities.

"The agreement is the initial step in the denuclearization process and will be closely observed as we watch for its implementation," McConnell said.

United Communities Housing Information

Leasing Office- 723-4290
Maintenance Office- 724-0500
**Maintenance Scheduling,
Progress, and
Trash Concerns - 724-0550**

Residential Refuse Collection

Mondays:

McGuire AFB, 3800s and 3900s

Tuesdays:

All of Fort Dix, including Quarters 201, 501 and 1900

Thursdays:

McGuire AFB, 4000s, 4400s and 4500s

Recyclables are picked up every

Thursday

Yard and garden waste is
picked up every Monday and Tuesday

**PLEASE PUT TRASH OUT
ONLY ON SCHEDULED DAYS.
HELP KEEP YOUR**

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN!

Please call 609-724-0550 to schedule
pickup of heavy metals and appliances.
Only recyclables in the blue bins, please!

Call for details, or
visit us online

www.mcguiredixus.com

WDIX Channel 2
24/7 information

Career fair comes to Dix

(continued from page 1)
places — my resume that the job fair helped me to prepare," said Staff Sgt. Giovanna Moreno, who is currently attached to the Massachusetts CBHCO.

"I think it's great. It's very helpful," added Spc. Joseph Celentano, 1156th Engineer Battalion and former CBHCO participant.

"Everybody here is so enthusiastic about taking care of Soldiers. It's fantastic," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Nolan, a 26-year veteran currently attached to the Massachusetts CBHCO. "It restores my faith in the military."

Restoring Soldiers' faith is a big part of the Hiring Heroes program, according to Karen Hannah, supervisory human resources specialist with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Hiring Heroes program manager.

"I hope they gain a feeling someone's still watching out for them," said Hannah. "They've had training and experiences that someone in the private sector has never had. They have valuable skills they don't even realize they have."

"I hope the Soldiers gain a feeling someone's still watching out for them. They've had training and experiences that someone in the private sector has never had. They have valuable skills they don't even realize they have."

Karen Hannah
program manager

"These Soldiers do not understand how much potential they have in the marketplace," added Maj. David Dean, Charlie Company commander. "You have some big companies targeting Soldiers."

More than 40 private-sector companies, veterans organizations and government organizations sent recruiters to the Hiring Heroes event, including IBM, Greyhound, Comcast Cable Communications, Commerce Bank, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Security Agency, Secret Service, New Jersey Department of Labor and the Central Intelligence Agency.

"They bring a lot to the table," said Amy Layton, Commerce Bank, regarding service members. "A large part of it is that they understand the meaning of teamwork."

"They volunteered to serve our country. That says a lot about their character," added Sgt. Kelley Warner, Abington Township Police Department. "The military brings a sense of structure...it's easier for them to adjust."

"Integrity, maturity, the ability to handle stress and follow directions," were the Soldier qualities listed by Mario Cristofani, staffing manager for Comcast. "When I see somebody with a military background, my fears are put to rest on those issues."

The Fort Dix Hiring Heroes job fair marks the eighth such event, with fairs held previously at Fort Sam Houston, Fort Bragg, Fort Gordon and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"I was at Walter Reed when they had their career fair," explained Sgt. Maj. William Clark, Fort Dix medical liaison for Walter Reed and former Charlie Company first sergeant. Clark invited many of the Soldiers from Charlie Company to come from Fort Dix to Walter Reed to participate in that previous Hiring Heroes event, which led to the determination that Dix could use a job fair of its own.

"The support here on Fort Dix has been fantastic," said Hannah. "Anything we ask for, they're there." From Col. McNeil down, they were all supportive," added Clark. "The support we've gotten from the local veteran organizations — they've poured in their money, they've poured in their time."

Wilson and the Installation Management Agency also gave their support, including Sensing Sessions where Soldiers and their spouses were offered an open forum in which to raise any issues or concerns.

"Speaking with the general was nice," said Diana Welch, whose husband, Cpl. Matthew Welch, is attached to the Massachusetts CBHCO. "We've had some issues, and it was nice to talk to someone higher up who can get things done."

"Each of you chose to wear the American Flag on your right shoulder," Wilson told the Soldiers. "I deeply appreciate and have deep respect for what you do for your country."

"We're committed to you," he added.

Team Dix was also committed to helping Soldiers at the Hiring Heroes event. Tables were set up at which service members could talk to representatives from post organizations



photos by Ed Mingin

HEALING PROCESS — Sgt. 1st Class John Greene, 642nd Division of Aviation Support Battalion, above right, talks with Harry Wegfarth and Shuanna Lloyd of CACI during the Hiring Heroes Career Fair Feb. 28 at the Timmermann Conference Center. Master Sgt. William Jackson, 250th Signal Battalion, below, gets a flower from Mary Conboy. Conboy, mother of Lance Cpl. Adam Conboy who was killed in service during the Global War on Terrorism, handed out flowers to Soldiers to show that she "appreciated what they were doing."

such as finance, legal, personnel, chapel, Army Community Service, medical, and case management. Billeting was provided when possible, and transportation was offered to those who needed to visit offices on post.

"The whole fleet is dedicated to the event," said Sgt. 1st Class Art Dulla, Charlie Company transportation NCOIC, referring to the unit's 14 vehicles that are normally used to shuttle wounded Charlie Company Soldiers to and from daily medical appointments.

"Because of the two-day event, 80 percent of the Soldiers' appointments were rescheduled," Dulla explained.

Dulla was part of a committee made up of current and former Charlie Company members who helped organize the event and get the word out to fellow wounded warriors.

"They have come through for the medical-hold Soldiers," said Dean of the committee.

"They did a fantastic job," added Clark.

According to the Pentagon, approximately 1,000 wounded warriors have obtained jobs through the Hiring Heroes program; Dean is taking a less quantitative approach to assessing the event's value.

"If the Soldiers are happy with it, it's a success," Dean said.



**Read
The Post!**

NEIGHBORHOOD

THE CORNER

Black History Committee to host dinner dance

The McGuire Black History Observance Committee will host the Scholarship Fundraiser "Smash/Dance/Food" March 10 from 6 p.m. to midnight at Club Dix. The event will feature dancing to Top 40 music and a taste of Afro-centric cuisine. Tickets cost \$10 per person. Those interested should call Master Sgt. Jennifer Noble-Slaton at 754-4371 or 351-0423 or Veverly Wakefield at 562-4046.

Art therapy sessions coming to ACS

Army Community Service and Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 2445, 6590 and 3020 will be hosting Art Therapy sessions for children who are experiencing separation because of relocation, extensive TDY's, deployment, divorce of the death of a beloved one.

A professional art therapist will conduct the sessions using art activities as assessment tools to understand the children's concerns and issues that usually cannot be expressed verbally. Parents will also have the opportunity to improve their communication skills using this methodology.

Art Therapy is a unique, non-threatening approach that uses art material, images, and discussion to help children express their thoughts and feelings.

Sessions will run for six consecutive weeks every Friday starting March 9.

Two sessions will be offered each Friday; the first session is from 4 to 5 p.m. for children four to eight years of age, and the second session will run from 5 to 6 p.m. for children nine to thirteen years of age.

Children will attend the first four sessions alone; parents and children will attend the last two sessions. The last session ends April 13.

Military family members from all branches are invited to attend the Art Therapy sessions. For more information and registration call Army Community Service at 562-5767. Registration in advance is required because of limited space.

The sessions are sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 2445, 6590 and 3020.

Family Advocacy to host Life After Divorce seminar

The Fort Dix Advocacy Program and the McGuire Family Support Center present "New Beginnings: Life After Divorce" March 20 & 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.

This class is ideal for anyone who is thinking about divorce, is going through a divorce, or has been divorced.

For more information or to register, call either Deraurah B. Wilson at 562-4830 or Judith Pates at 754-3814.

Fort Dix Spouses' Club offers scholarships, grants

The Fort Dix Spouses' Club is once again accepting requests for their annual Community Grants and Scholarships Programs.

The grants are made possible by the revenue from the Fort Dix Thrift Shop.

Any military community organization may apply for this assistance. All that is needed is a written request which includes: A point of contact, a return address, the dollar amount, the reason for the request and description of how the grant will be used, and the date that the grant will be needed.

All letters should be sent to the Fort Dix Spouses' Club, PO Box 74, Fort Dix, New Jersey, 08640.

Qualified applicants for the scholarship program must be - high school seniors going to college or university - military spouses or dependents living on or stationed at Fort Dix - civilian spouse, dependent or employee of Fort Dix

- child of a Fort Dix Spouses' Club member (Helen G Reddy)

The deadline to request a grant or scholarship is April 1.

Completed applications must be received on or before this date (postmarks not accepted).

Applications are available at the Ft. Dix Thrift Shop, Ft. Dix Education Center, Army Community Service and area High School Guidance Offices.

For more information, call Susan DuKavas at 723-2784 or email at FDSCScholarship@verizon.net

Readiness center named for hero

Carolee Nisbet
Editor

"I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life."

These words from The Soldiers Creed were used to characterize Sgt. 1st Class Robert V. Derenda Feb. 23 at a ceremony naming the Fort Dix Joint Readiness Center in his honor.

The Center is the main processing site for Soldiers mobilized at Fort Dix as they prepare to deploy around the world.

Family, fellow Soldiers and members of Team Dix met in the main hall of the Center for the simple ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Bruce Robinson, commander, 98th Division (Institutional Training), praised Derenda as "among the elite of the American Army," citing his service as a Drill Sergeant and his leadership qualities. "His contribution was enduring, and it will be felt by others around the world."

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of two plaques, one with a photograph of Sgt. 1st Class Derenda next to the citation for the Bronze Star awarded him after he was killed near Rubiah, Iraq Aug. 5, 2005. It now hangs near the front door of the facility, a prominent spot in the path of every Soldier who passes through Fort Dix as part of the Global War on Terrorism.

The second plaque, cast in bronze, was placed outside the entrance and reads "Dedicated to the memory of SFC Robert V. Derenda, 27 July 1963 - 5 August 2005, An American Hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and the nation of Iraq. SFC Robert V. Derenda was a caring son, brother and friend."

Maj. Gen. Robinson and Col. R. David McNeil, installation commander, were joined by the Derenda family in unveiling the two plaques, including parents Valerian and Loretta; sister Caroline Kibby, her husband Scott and sons Thomas and Nickolaus.

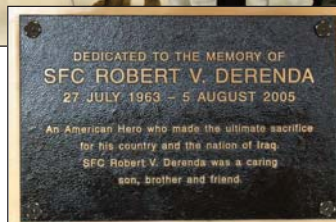
Loretta Derenda smiled at her son's photo and spoke to the gathered crowd of his long-time interest in the Army and his love of the people with whom he served.

"We want to thank you for honoring Robert's memory this way," she said. "It makes our loss a little easier to bear."



photos by Ed Mingin

HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE -- A picture of Sgt. First Class Robert V. Derenda and his Bronze Star citation is unveiled Feb. 23 by his family during the ceremony dedicating the Fort Dix Joint Readiness Center on Baltimore Avenue in his name. The picture hangs inside the building, while the plaque, right, is located outside the entrance.



Derenda was born in Cheektowaga, N.Y., and enjoyed track and skiing while attending St. Francis High

School, winning a spot on the ski patrol through his skill and dedication.

After graduation, he attended the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina. He earned his undergraduate degree in psychology at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

Enlisting in the Army in 1986, Sgt.

1st Class Derenda served tours as an infantryman in Korea and Panama. He returned to Buffalo in 1991 to pursue a second degree in chemical engineering, and joined the 2nd Brigade, 98th Division (Institutional

Training), earning his drill sergeant's badge.

Derenda was assigned to the Al Kasik Military Training Base in Iraq, helping to train Soldiers from the New Iraqi Army's 3rd Division.

On August 5, 2005, the swerve of an errant civilian fuel truck on the highway

outside Rubiah brought his life to an end.

Sgt. 1st Class Derenda was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and was made an Honorary Green Beret.

His hometown honored him by naming one of the streets that was a playground in his youth after him.

Because of his love of the military and pride in serving as a Soldier, Derenda's family chose to have him buried alongside other American heroes in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

The facility on Baltimore Avenue that bears his name was built in 1964 as a gymnasium for Soldiers in basic and advanced individual training. It was renovated as part of the Fort Dix mission to mobilize and deploy Soldiers for America's Army.

"The nation that forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten."

Herbert Hoover
31st President
of the United States

Feeling hot, hot, hot!

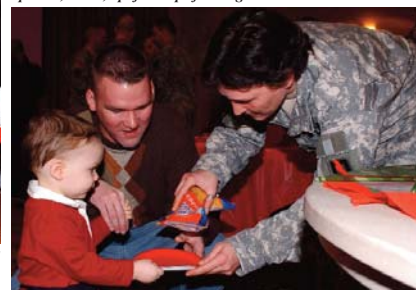


Soldiers from the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade and their families held a Chili Cookoff at Club Dix Feb. 21. Capt. Lara Lewis, above, takes a healthy portion of one contestant's concoction.



photos by Shawn Morris

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Bero, above, reacts to a spoonful of one contestant's chili, while Capt. Scott McLendon and 18-month-old son Spencer, below, opt for chips from Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Bell.



MILITARY MATTERS

Bullets

ASMIS-2 program becomes Travel Risk Planning System

●FORT RUCKER, Ala., Feb. 14, 2007 — A tool used by Soldiers to assess the risk of driving their privately owned vehicles on trips is now the same tool that Airman, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen will use beginning early March.

Formally adopted across the Department of Defense, the tool known to Soldiers as ASMIS-2 officially becomes TRIPS, or Travel Risk Planning System.

The tool was adopted because of its ability to give users a comprehensive risk assessment based on their travel plans and recommending certain actions to help lower risks.

"ASMIS-2's greatest value has always been the one-on-one interaction and dialogue it promotes between the supervisor and subordinate," said the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center Sgt. Maj. David Griffith. "The specific questions asked about an upcoming trip allow supervisors and Soldiers to engage and help identify potential faults in driving plans and help provide other alternatives."

The online tool was adopted last year by the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and recently this year by the Air Force. Since its implementation in the Army, more than 1,783,000 assessments have been completed by Soldiers, with 6 fatalities occurring during an assessed trip. These statistics show that those using the tool may be less likely to be involved in fatal mishaps. TRIPS is expected to continue with the same results across all service branches.

"Since the release of TRIPS, 29,061 Sailors have registered for accounts and 15,452 risk assessments have been completed," said Capt. Bill Glenn, director of Shore Safety at the Naval Safety Center. "To date, no Navy personnel who have been traveling on a risk assessment have been involved in a fatal motor vehicle accident."

While elements of ASMIS-2 remain the same — such as inputting information like the type of vehicle being driven, age, start and end points, expected sleep before traveling, seat belt use and more — TRIPS offers more than just a name change. The tool offers additional features specifically for supervisors. One of the new features allows supervisors to view the TRIPS activity of their subordinates two levels down, which offers more opportunity for leadership engagement and awareness.

"TRIPS will continue to provide users with risk awareness features such as the mapping feature," said Griffith. "However, the new features make this positive and proven tool even more valuable in the fight against POV fatalities of not only our Soldiers, but all DOD service members and civilians."

Army personnel can expect to notice the name change of ASMIS-2 to TRIPS on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's Web site at <https://crc.army.mil> this March.

Kelly Widener, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

National Guard, Reserve report decrease in mobilized troops

●WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 2007 — This week, the Navy and Marine Corps announced an increase, while the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard had a decrease. The net collective result is 872 fewer reservists mobilized than last week.

A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are currently mobilized, can be found at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2007/d20070228ngr.pdf>.

Virginia troops prep for mission

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 116th Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, Virginia National Guard, concluded Theater Immersion Training in preparation for a deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Hailing from Fredericksburg, Va., these Soldiers arrived at the installation in early January and performed various levels of security forces, military police, and convoy operations.

The 116th just completed the Army Training Evaluation Program, or ARTEP. It represents the conclusion of the training the unit has performed the last couple of months at Dix before mobilization. In the ARTEP, the Warrior Trainers out at the ranges set up scenarios for the Soldiers and evaluate how they properly follow the Rules of Engagement in a combat zone.

"The key is getting the rhythm in place and we feel like we're doing very well and feel very confident. The ARTEP is a very stressful training event taking everything we've learned so far. The trainers continuously change the scenarios and intensity levels which challenges us to improve," 1st Lt. Joshua Wells, Alpha Company executive officer, said.

"These Soldiers have exceeded all expectations I had for them, which means that I have to keep setting higher expectations, but that's a good problem to have," Capt. Ryan Thompson, Alpha Company commander, said.

The leadership feels very positive with the unit and the direction they are going in. They keep focused on the primary issues at hand: Performance of the mission to the highest capability, and even more importantly, bringing everyone home safely.

This unit, comprised of about 150 male Soldiers, had some very challenging elements besides the usual training rudiments to deal with. They had to endure frigid sub-zero temperatures with harsh wind chills to accomplish the tasks at hand and, according to their leadership, they did a tremendous job.



Ryan Morton

MISSION ESSENTIALS — Soldiers from Alpha Company, 116th Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, Virginia National Guard, conduct convoy operations as part of their Theater Immersion Training on Fort Dix. The unit has completed the Army Training Evaluation Program in preparation for deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"If we can get through the bitter cold with one another and do that well, I feel we can get through anything and everything," Thompson said.

The unit is primarily made up of combat engineers, but has a diverse group of Soldiers from other job specialties, including infantry, military police, field artillery, administration and supply mechanics, medics, and others to help aid the mission. This is a very experienced group of Soldiers, as many are veterans who have served in conflicts ranging from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom to Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Having this kind of experience really helps many of the younger, more novice Soldiers.

"They help bring confidence and resolve and provide a very positive influence in working with the younger, developing Soldiers. They're able to mentor and offer good insight on what to expect because they've been in harm's way before," Wells said.

Many of the Soldiers in this unit did not know each other beforehand. "They've done an outstanding job meshing with one another. Their attitude, motivation, and willingness to learn have been tremendous. I feel like I've got the best troops in the world," Thompson said.

These Soldiers have not had to go through this alone. They have received tremendous hometown support from friends and

family to help them deal with the difficult circumstances. The Family Readiness Group has raised thousands of dollars through fundraising efforts and donations and developed an online bulletin board. It is a Web site that gives current updates on what is happening with the unit, has a question-and-answer section, and a chat room that Soldiers and their families can use.

Various corporations such as the Golden Corral restaurant and The Home Depot hardware store got behind the effort as well. The Golden Corral catered a going-away party for the Soldiers and their families at very little cost, and Home Depot donated large tool boxes. The mail clerk in the unit has been very busy too, sorting through all the letters and care packages sent from home.

These Soldiers are among the more than 93,000 who have mobilized and de-mobilized through Fort Dix since September 11, 2001.

"These Soldiers have exceeded all expectations I had for them, which means that I have to keep setting higher expectations, but that's a good problem to have."

Capt. Ryan Thompson
Alpha Company CO

Chaplains' Corner

Chap. (Maj.) Jason Logan
Chapel Staff

"...for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" Acts 17:28

Last Sunday, someone told me a story that's funny, but somewhat crude. I might not tell it in Church, but I'll share it with you.

Two elderly ladies were sitting in a nursing home talking to each other. One lady said to the other, "Ellen, why do you have a suppository in your right ear?" The other lady, surprised, said, "That's where my hearing aid went!"

I guess it's kind of funny if you know what a suppository is, right?

Seriously, I hope life finds you healthy, happy and pre-

pared for all of its challenges. After all, military life is challenging and sometime difficult. That is why in the Army we talk about and make great efforts to be prepared people for anything.

As a chaplain, I too want you to be prepared for the real challenges of military life and, most especially, spiritually.

As a chaplain, I too want you to be prepared for the real challenges of military life. For Soldiers, God can and is a combat multiplier! He can really make a difference for us especially in the tough times.

Fundamentally, I want to share with Soldiers that each and every one of us has an intended purpose!

I believe that in a broad sense God created each of us by His good pleasure.

He also created us to have a personal relationship with Him. In fact, for Soldiers, God can and

is a combat multiplier! He can really make a difference for us especially in the tough times. The Bible says that in Him we live and move and have our being (purpose) (i.e., Acts 17:28).

The problem is, many us reject that relationship and therefore live like the misplaced hearing aid. We are incomplete and stuck where we don't belong.

Herein is my exhortation for you this week. Friends, live as you were intended! Seek a personal relationship with the One who made you! You won't

regret it one bit. In fact, you will find answers to life's most difficult problems and acceptance from someone who loves you unconditionally.

May God bless you and keep you! May God cause His face to shine upon and lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace!



Ryan Morton

THE PAPER TRAIL HOME—Sgt. Crystal Burgess, left, processes the paperwork for 1st Sgt. Anthony Freda of the New Jersey National Guard. Freda is one of 16 Soldiers who just returned from a year-long deployment in Afghanistan training the Afghan National Army. The Soldiers, who came from variety of Military Occupation Specialties, had to overcome cultural and educational differences to tackle the mission of training Soldiers across Afghanistan.

N.J. Guard Soldiers return from Afghan training stint

Ryan Morton
Public Affairs Staff

cultural differences was very challenging as well," Heineman said.

According to Heineman, the task was made even more difficult as these Soldiers were spread out training the Afghan Soldiers in Herat, Shindand, and Farah.

"The hardest part was getting the Afghans to train. Besides the educational issues, you had to get

what they accomplished," Heineman said.

It is not easy to be away for a year, but the support these Soldiers had from their family and friends helped the time pass more quickly. The communications were very good with TV, Internet, and telephone; they were able to remain in contact with their families fairly consistently.

Now that they are all home in one piece, the adjustment back to civilian life begins as they discharge from active duty back into the National Guard.

"The biggest problem we now face is getting back into jobs, businesses, and everyday life, but that's a good problem to have compared to worrying about IED's or people shooting at you," Heineman said.

On February 27, the Soldiers officially de-mobilized going from Active Duty to National Guard and took care of all the loose ends with various paperwork dealing with medical, legal, and educational issues, among other things.

The bottom line, they are glad to be home.

A group of Soldiers from the New Jersey National Guard felt the warm feelings of returning home recently from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. Their plane landed on U.S. soil on February 22.

"It's great to be back. You pretty much look forward to coming back the moment you leave," Lt. Col. Bill Heineman, the Executive Officer said.

Sixteen Soldiers from various Military Occupation Specialties (MOS) such as Infantry, armor, artillery, signal, ordnance, and medical branches, among others, participated in a mission to help train the Afghan National Army (ANA). According to Heineman, getting to teach and mentor these Soldiers was a unique and wonderful experience, but a very difficult and challenging job at the same time.

"Their educational level is extremely low. Many of them can't read or write and dealing with the

"The Soldiers did a tremendous job. They worked really hard from the moment we mobed to the moment we de-mobed. They should be extremely proud of what they accomplished."

Lt. Col. Bill Heineman
executive officer

the leadership to buy into the reasoning behind the training and that didn't always happen," Heineman said.

Overall, the Soldiers felt they left the country in a better position than it was in before.

"The Soldiers did a tremendous job. They worked really hard from the moment we mobed to the moment we de-mobed. They should be extremely proud



Lt. Col. Kathleen Zentor

Hill goes over the top

Elaine Hill, Task Force Edison, 1st Brigade, 78th Division (TS), center, is promoted to rank of sergeant major Feb. 16. Hill's sisters and daughter, from left to right, Gerrie Calanan-Turpin, Barbara Anderson, Tiffany Hill and Barrie Crawford, all participated in pinning on the new rank insignia. Hill began her military career at Fort Dix, taking basic training in October 1979. She was mobilized in July 2005 in support of the Lightning Brigade's battle command training mission conducted by Task Force Edison and is the senior Non-commissioned Officer Staff Observer Controller Trainer and Task Force Non-Commissioned Officer in charge.

Announcements



**Movie
Schedule**
at the McGuire AFB Theatre
Movie Hotline 754-5139

Friday, March 2 @ 7:30 p.m.
The Queen - Helen Mirrin, Michael Sheen - Following the death of Princess Diana in an auto accident, Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair struggle to reach a compromise in how the royal family should publicly respond to the tragedy. In the balance is the family's need for privacy and the public's demand for an outward show of mourning. **MPAA Rating: PG-13** for brief strong language. *103 minutes.*

Saturday, March 3 @ 7:30 p.m.
Dreamgirls - Janie Fox, Beyonce Knowles - Three girlfriends from Chicago form a singing trio and take steps toward musical stardom. After several dramatic shifts, they begin to realize their dreams. Fame and fortune, though, turn out not to be exactly what they had envisioned. **MPAA Rating: PG-13** for language, some sexuality and drug content. *Run Time: 131 minutes.*

Future Features...

Epic Movie
Friday, March 9 @ 7:30 p.m.
PG-13, 86 min.

Blood & Chocolate
Saturday, March 10 @ 7:30 p.m.
PG-13, 98 min.

Main Chapel

562-2020

Sunday Services

Protestant at 9 a.m.
Catholic Mass at 10:15 a.m. Gospel at 11:30 a.m.
Catholic CCD is held at 9:15 a.m.
Protestant-Gospel Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Religious Services

Islamic Prayer room
open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Room 24

Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays at noon and 7 p.m.
Catholic Adult Bible Study - Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Christian Women of the Chapel
hold a **Bible Study** - Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Christian Men of the Chapel
hold a **Prayer Breakfast** - Fourth Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Youth of the Chapel
Every second and fourth Tuesday - 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Jewish Services
Contact the Chapel for dates and time

Passover and Lenten Activities

Stations of the Cross -
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March - 6 p.m.

Model Passover Seder:
An Educational Experience on how
a Seder is Conducted
15 March - 7 p.m.
to register call 562-2020

Organizations

Wiccan Services offered
Wiccan Services are offered at Chapel #2, Falcon Court, McGuire Air Force Base the first, third and fourth Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more information call Shirley Szalay, 758-4681.

Red Cross seeks volunteers
The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to help at the warehouse. Interested individuals must be able to lift boxes and have experience in inventory control. Contact Patrizia Selk-Welkenbach at 562-2258.

WIC Program available
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally funded supplemental nutrition program for pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children under the age of 5. Eligibility for the program is based on an income and nutritional or medical risk. WIC can provide infants with iron-fortified infant formula, cereal and juice. Children and women receive milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter or beans. Women who breastfeed and do not use any infant formula may also receive carrots and tuna.
The Burlington County WIC Program has clinic sites throughout the county. Evening appointments are available. To learn more about the program call WIC at 267-4303

305 MDG Pharmacy information
Patients using the 305 MDG Ambulatory Health-care Center who received a prescription must first visit the pharmacy to "check-in and activate" the prescription. An ID card is required. The pharmacy will process the prescription only after check-in.
Current prescriptions may be refilled 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling **754-9470**. Refills can be requested seven to ten days before the prescription runs out. Refills are ready for pick-up two duty days after being phoned in.

Army Community Service

Bldg. 5201

562-2767

Hours of Operation:
7:45 - 4:30 p.m.

March Schedule

Playgroup 18 months - 3 years
5 March
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
McGuire CDC #1

Playgroup birth-18 months
7 March
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
McGuire CDC #1

AER Campaign Kick-Off
7 March
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
ACS

Self-Defense Class
8 March
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
DoD Trainin Facility

How Far is Too Far?
8 March
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
ACS

For more information call
Deraurah Wilson at 562-4830

McGuire AFB Family Advocacy Program

754-9680

March Schedule

Parents Anonymous Support Group
Tuesdays

Falcon Courts Chapel
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The More the Merrier: Playgroup for Multiples
first Friday of the month
PAX terminal

Anger Management
first 3 Fridays of the month
Health and Wellness Center
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Baby Basics
March 7
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Pregnancy 101
March 9
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For information and registration
call **754-9680**

Youth Center

Bldg. 1279 Locust Street
562-5061

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday - Friday 2 to 7 p.m.
Saturday 1 to 7 p.m.
Sunday & Monday CLOSED

Administrative Hours:
Tuesday - Friday noon to 6 p.m.

March Schedule

Mondays - Fridays

Power Hour
2 - 4:30 p.m.

Computer Lab
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays
SMART Start
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Wednesdays
Sports and Fitness
3:35 - 4:45 p.m.

Thursdays
Tech Club
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Fridays
Arts and Crafts
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Note: The Teen Center is open Fridays and Saturdays from 7 to 11 p.m. except during the Youth Center's Midnight Basketball nights.

MOBILIZATION NEW YOU CAN USE

WDIX
Commander's
Channel 2

WDIX
Commander's
Channel 2

Post Shuttle Bus

562-5889
Monday to Sunday - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
During the day *Starr Tour* buses are used,
in evening the military *Bluebird* buses are run.

Dix Shoppette/Class Six/ Gas Station

723-0044
Bldg. 5359, Texas Ave.
Monday to Friday - 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Weekends - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

BX/PX & Mall

723-6100
Monday to Thursday - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Commissary

754-4154
Monday to Friday - 7 a.m. (early bird) to 8 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday - 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Military Clothing/Sales Store-Alterations

723-2307
Bldg. 5601, Texas Ave.
Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday - Closed.

Firestone

723-0464
Bldg. 4201 on Texas Ave.
Monday through Friday - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Recreation Center

562-4956
Bldg. 5905 on Doughboy Loop.
Monday through Friday - 1 to 10 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday - noon to 11 p.m.
AT&T Cyber Zone offers computer access for a fee

Burger King

723-8937
Bldg. 5399, Texas Ave.
Monday to Saturday 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

McGuire Gas Station

723-4705
East Arnold Avenue by th 24-hour gate
Monday to Friday - 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Spouses' Club Thrift Shop

723-2683
Tuesday and Thursdays - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
First Wednesday of each month - 4 to 8 p.m.
First and 3rd Saturday of each month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dining Facilities

Bldgs. 5640 and 5986
Breakfast Mon - Sun 6:00 to 7:30 a.m.
Lunch Mon - Sun 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Dinner Mon - Sun 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation

562-6667
Bldg. 6045 Doughboy Loop
Equipment for rent includes skis, snowboards, canoes, flat bottom boats, canopies of various sizes, tents, tables, chairs and more.
Monday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 4 p.m.

Java Cafe and Computer Lab @Club Dix

723-3272
Monday - Friday - 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday - Closed.

McGuire Shoppette

723-4705
East Arnold Avenue by the 24-hour gate
Monday to Thursday - 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday - 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fort Dix Post Office

723-1541
6038 West 9th St.
Monday to Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to noon
Lobby hours
Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Club Dix

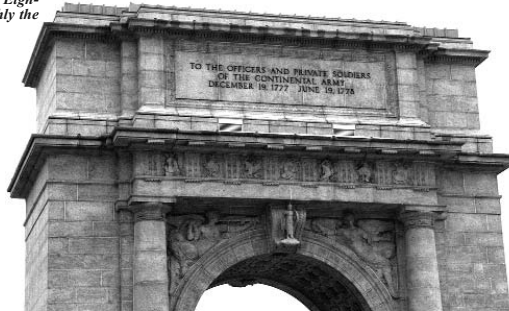
723-3272
Dix Cafe
Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NCO Academy Soldiers learn lessons from local landmarks



photos by Wayne Cook

The Fort Dix NCO Academy held a Staff Ride to Philadelphia and surrounding areas Feb. 28 as part of its professional development program. Soldiers visit Gen. George Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge, above, while National Park Service Ranger Steve Ractor, sporting the wool jacket and canvas pants of the Revolutionary War Soldier, right, briefs the men and women of the NCO Academy on the uniform and equipment of the period. Eighteenth-century Soldiers carried 40 to 60 pounds of gear with them back then, roughly the same as Soldiers of today.



NCO Academy Soldiers visited many historic sites during their Staff Ride Feb. 28, including: The monument erected by Congress to Gen. George Washington and his Soldiers at Valley Forge, above; the meeting place of the 225-year-old 1st Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry; and Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia. They also took a guided tour of historic sites in downtown Philly in an amphibious vehicle known as a DUKW (DUCK), left.



Wayne Cook

Staying on their toes

Soldiers from the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, Kelly Reserve Center, go through the motions of practicing jump procedures prior to a scheduled training jump at Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station Feb. 22.

WWW.DIX.
ARMY.MIL

New and improved to better serve
YOU

Relationship Safety

Everyone has the right to feel safe in his or her relationships.
Are you or do you know anyone in an abusive relationship?

Look for these signs:

- threats or intimidation
- isolation from family and friends
- denying access to money
- sexual abuse
- involving or using children in adult conflicts
- destroying personal possessions
- feeling fearful
- painful put-downs
- use of weapons

Important phone numbers:

Providence House hotline
871-7551
NJ Domestic Violence hotline
800 572-SAFE
Fort Dix Victim Advocate
562-2767
McGuire Victim Advocate
754-9672

For emergency assistance call 911

Dix vs. Dix in bantam basketball rivalry



SPLIT DECISION -- Hashim Russell and the Fort Dix Jr. Bantams lost a close 23-21 game to McGuire this past weekend. They rebounded the next day, winning 19-9 over Pemberton #3.

Ed Mingin
Public Affairs Staff

During the week, the kids of the Fort Dix Sr. Bantam teams are classmates. They are friends who hang out together after school. In the fall, they are teammates in Football. Spring will see them as teammates again, this time in baseball.

But this past weekend, all that was put aside. They weren't teammates, classmates, or friends—they were competitors.

Fort Dix has two Sr. Bantam teams, and the two teams faced each other Saturday, Feb. 23 at Pemberton Township High School, with Fort Dix #1 taking a 28-18 victory.

"We played once before this season," said John Williams, coach of Fort Dix #2. "We lost that one. I hoped this one would be different, but we lost again."

Williams has already put this loss behind him and is looking forward to his team's game this weekend.

"We play them again this weekend," he said. At the start of the competition, neither team was able to put any points on the board. It was several minutes into the game when Fort Dix #1 managed to take a 2-0 lead.

Dix #2 struggled for a few minutes, falling behind 6-2, but then managed to put up a few points and take a 7-6 lead. Kyle Kerr hit a 3 pointer and sunk another basket to put Dix #2 ahead.



photos by Ed Mingin

POST RIVALRY -- It was a battle of Fort Dix teams in the Sr. Bantam division when Fort Dix competed against Fort Dix. In the end, Fort Dix #1 walked away with a 28-18 victory. The two teams will meet again this weekend.

The lead was short lived however, as Dix #1 took the lead again, this time not looking back until the game was over.

At the final buzzer, the two teams put aside their competitive spirit. They were no longer rivals. Once again they were

friends, classmates and teammates - in the other sports.

In the Jr. Bantam division, Fort Dix dropped a close game Friday night to the undefeated McGuire team, losing 23-21.

They rebounded the next day, beating Pemberton #3 by a score of 19-9.

The Jr. Bantams now sit at 7-2.

They will play their final regular season game March 2, when they face Pemberton #2. Game time is 7 p.m. at the Doughboy Gym.

Sports Shorts

Griffith Field House

Saturday & Sunday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Youth Basketball Schedule

March 2
Juniors - Fort Dix vs. the Warriors at Pemberton High School - 6 p.m.
Jr. Bantam - Fort Dix vs. Pemberton #2 at Doughboy Gym - 7 p.m.

March 3
Juniors - Fort Dix vs. Delran at McGuire Fitness Center - noon.
Minors - Fort Dix #1 vs. the Bulls at Columbia - 10 a.m.
Fort Dix #2 vs. the Pacers at Columbia - 1 p.m.
Pee Wee - Fort Dix vs. the Knicks at Doughboy Gym - 10 a.m.

Fountain Green Golf Course

Freezing weather may be keeping the golf course empty, but it likely has golfers daydreaming about warmer temperatures and sunny skies.

For those thinking about their next golf outing, it is time to head over to the golf course and settle the 2007 Annual Membership Fees.

The fees for the 2007 season are as follows:

\$500 E-1 - E-4 / Equivalent
\$695 E-5 - E-5 / Equivalent
\$786 E-7 - above/Equivalent
\$1089 Contractors
\$200 Junior Membership

For applications or additional information, call 562-5443.

Griffith Field House Aerobics Schedule

Monday
Step & Sculpt
noon - 1 p.m.
Total Toning
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday
Mind & Body Pilates
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Spin-It!
noon - 12:45 p.m.

Wednesday
Hi-Lo Fusion
noon - 1 p.m.
Circuit Training
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Thursday
Step & Sculpt
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Mind & Body Pilates
noon - 12:45 p.m.
Mixed Fitness
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Friday
Spin-It!
noon - 12:45 p.m.

Classes are subject to change. There must be at least three participants to conduct a class. Call the Griffith Field House staff at 562-4888 for more information.

Volleyball

March 28 will mark the start of volleyball season. The first coaches meeting will be held March 14.

For more details, call Chris O'Donnell at 562-4888.

Aquatics

Winter hours are now in place for the indoor pool.

Lap Swim

Monday - Friday
Retirees/adult dependents/
working DOD
6 a.m. - 8 a.m.
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Active duty/ working DOD
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday

Retirees/adult dependents/

working DOD
10:30 a.m. - noon

Rec. Swim
Mon. - Fri.
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday
Noon - 6 p.m.

Fees for Rec. Swim: Military- \$2
Non-military-\$4.

The pool will be closed Feb. 24, 25, and 26.

Unlimited bowling

Every Wednesday, get your fill of bowling at the Fort Dix Bowling Center. Rent one lane for two hours of unlimited bowling for only \$20 per lane, up to six people per lane. Shoe rental extra.

Call the bowling center at 562-6895 for more information.

Griffith Field House Basketball

The basketball season is quickly drawing to a close at the Griffith Field House. TLC remains perfect with 10 wins. Play-offs start soon, and the post champions will take on the McGuire champions later this month.

Standings as of 3/1/07

TLC	10-0
WILDCATS	8-2
MRB	8-2
FCI	7-3
RENEGADES	7-4
NCOA	5-5
2/315th FA	5-6
DYNASTY	4-7
HHC 5th BDE	3-8
3rd SEG	2-8

Take advantage of a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience how our soldiers train to fight the War on Terror.

Victory Base at Fort Dix is a unique, battlefield-realistic Tactical Training Center used for soldier training as they prepare to deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Up to 2,000 soldiers are housed on 40 acres of land while preparing for overseas deployment.

This simulated forward operating base, or (FOB), is used by Army trainers to simulate conditions that military personnel will face when they serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations. It includes a simulated Iraq village that has been created to immerse soldiers in the reality of combat in a hostile and different environment so they can develop the skills to succeed on the battlefield against attack and in counterinsurgency operations.

Experiencing Victory Base first hand, during a tour prior to golf, will give you an appreciation of the commitment made by our service men and women and deepen your understanding of what they confront in Southwest Asia.



Golfing for our Heroes

June 25, 2007

*A golf tournament like no other.
a day you will never forget*



For more information, call Kristen Hillenbrand or Kim Iapalucci (215) 365-8868

Sponsorship Levels

*Home front.....\$175
Individual tour and dinner

*Private Level..... \$350
Individual player, golf, tour and dinner

Sergeant Level.....\$1250
Fourteen, tour and dinner

Sergeant Major Level..... \$2000
Fourteen, tour, dinner and hole sponsorship

Captain Level..... \$3500
2 Fourteen, tour, dinner and hole sponsorship

Colonel Level.....\$5000
2 Fourteen, tour, dinner, hole sponsorship & closed to the pin or longest drive

General Level..... \$7500
2 Fourteen, tour, dinner, hole sponsorship & closed to the pin or longest drive, putting, scoring, and 100 yards for every participant

Hole sponsorships

Individual Salutes.....\$150
Hole sign displayed on the golf course to honor active military or retired military, or the memory of a member of the military

Business Salute..... \$500
Hole sign with business logo to honor members of the military

Join the Hall of Heroes. Add a name of someone you would like to honor to the Hall of Heroes, displayed during dinner for a gift of only \$25.

*20% Discount for any United States Veteran

ARTS & CRAFTS

Bldg. 6039
Philadelphia Street
562-5691

Registration & sales store hours:

Tuesday-Thursday
noon-5 p.m. & 6-8:45 p.m.
Friday
11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

PROGRAMS

Easter Bonanza Workshop
March 24, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Come join the fun with a Paper Mache Bunny Rabbit decorating contest, t-shirt decorating and card making. Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fun and festivities.
\$5 fee plus \$10 materials

Contemporary Ceramic & Mosaic Studio
Looking for a place to walk in, relax and get creative? This is the place for you and your family to paint functional or decorative items to give as gifts or keep for yourself. We have many bisque ware items to choose from plates and mugs to piggy banks, lots of project ideas, and a helpful staff to get you started. You do the painting

and we'll complete your masterpiece with a food-safe glaze and expert firing. And now we have new lower prices in the mosaic studio. This ancient craft is simple and relaxing, and you can create one of a kind home décor or gift items. Studio open during normal sales store hours.

Framing Qualification Classes

March 3, 9 to 11:30 a.m.
March 7 & 21, 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Get qualified to use this great facility and equipment! You'll complete one piece (cost of which is not covered by registration fee) about 8 x 10" which you must supply as you learn to operate the equipment. All materials are available for purchase at the frame shop.
\$10 registration fee

Krafty Birthdays

Arts & Crafts offers Krafty Birthday Parties! Parties include up to 2 hours of party room use, one craft project with instruction and all materials, with many exciting projects to choose from. When making party reservations, please make sure to stop by in order to select the craft and make payment.

Adult Craft Classes

Tuesdays, 6 - 8:30 p.m.
March 6.....Mosaic Madness
March 13.....Scrapbooking
March 20.....Fabric Photo Frame
\$5 fee plus materials

Kids Craft Classes
Saturdays, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
March 10.....Beaded Keychain
March 31.....Bird Feeder and Pinwheel
\$5 fee plus materials

Introductory Pottery Class

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
March 7 - April 11
\$55 fee plus materials

Frame Shop

The frame shop offers both do-it-yourself framing and custom framing. The shop is well stocked with a vast array of molding and mat board, plus state of the art equipment and a technical expert with over 20 years of experience in the field to ensure the results are exceptional. Posters and fine art prints are also available for purchase or by special order.

Pottery Studio

The Pottery Studio offers classes covering both hand building and wheel throwing techniques. Once you've completed the initial class come in anytime during studio hours to use the facility.

Create A Critter

Discover a menagerie of adorable animals to stuff, dress, and cuddle. From the basic teddy bear to giraffes and lions, we've got them all! Great fun for the whole family, and you'll love our low prices. A great last minute gift idea, too!

Honoring the Colors

Reveille 6 a.m. (0600 hours)

Stand at attention, face the flag and salute at first note.

Retreat 5 p.m. (1700 hours)

Stand at attention, face the flag for Retreat, then salute at first note of To the Colors.

Military personnel in uniform

Stand at attention, face the flag and place right hand over heart at first note.

Military personnel not in uniform, civilians

Stand at attention, face the flag for Retreat, then place right hand over heart at first note of To the Colors.

Military personnel in formation or in a group

Senior Soldier calls group to "Attention," then "Present, Arms" at first note. Calls "Order, Arms" at conclusion.

Senior Soldier calls group to "Attention," then "Parade, Rest" at first note of Retreat. Calls group to "Attention" and "Present, Arms" at first note of To the Colors, then "Order, Arms" at conclusion.

Individual military personnel, civilians in a vehicle

Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.

Stop vehicle and exit. Follow steps above.

Group of military personnel in a vehicle

Stop vehicle. Individual in charge exits and follows steps above.

Stop vehicle. Individual in charge exits and follows steps above.



Army Community Service (ACS)

562-2767

Bldg. 5201, on the corner of 8th Street and Maryland Avenue

Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Looking for information and assistance? ACS is here to serve you. ACS serves all military branches of service, DoD civilian personnel and retirees. The ACS Center is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

FORT DIX WANTS YOU



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fort Dix is looking for interested residents who would like to volunteer

"Fort Dix volunteers improve the quality of life for all residents"

For those residents who want to make sure the Fort Dix community is the best it can be please

Call Army Community Service at 562-2767